

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4725

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, PFOR, CY

SUBJ: CYPRUS DISPUTE: TEMPERATURE OF GREEK AND TURKISH DELS

1. WE SEE NO REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT THEIR EXPERIENCE IN NEW YORK DURING OCT HAS SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED ATTITUDES OF GREEK AND TURKISH DIPLOMATS TOWARDS EACH OTHER OR TOWARDS US. FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONISTIC OBSERVATIONS SUPPORT THIS CONCLUSION AS WELL AS ASSUMPTION THAT GREEK AND TURKISH LEADERS CONTINUE TO ATTACH SUBSTANTIAL IMPORTANCE TO US EFFORT UNDER SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PERSONAL LEADERSHIP TO CATALYZE GENERAL SETTLEMENT OF CYPRUS PROBLEM.

2. DURING PERIOD OF CYPRUS DEBATE GREEK AND TURKISH DELS IN NEW YORK BOTH RESPECTED US DESIRE NOT TO TAKE LEAD IN RESOLUTION-MONGERING PROCESS. TURKS SHOWED NO OVERT LACK OF CONFIDENCE THAT US WOULD TAKE POSITION SATISFACTORY TO TURKEY. GREEKS FOR THEIR PART SHOWED NO SIGN OF DISTRUST, AND NO OVERT INDICATION OF RESENTMENTS OF US POSTURE IN PAST MONTHS. BITSIOS WAS OBJECTIONABLY HAUGHTY IN PERSONAL STYLE OF OCCASION BUT HE TOO BEHAVED UNEXCEPTIONALLY ON MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE. BOTH MAINLAND DELS COOPERATED FULLY WITH US IN LOYALTY TO PRINCIPLE THAT UNGA DEBATE MUST NOT WRECK PROSPECTS
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FOR SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT NEGOTIATIONS ELSEWHERE.

3. PREDICTABLY IT WAS GREEK CYPRIOT DEL, WITH MAKARIOS IN NEW YORK AND ACTIVE IN BACKGROUND, WHICH SHOWED MINIMAL CONCERN FOR OUR SENSITIVITIES AND NO REAL RESPONSIVENESS TO OUR DIPLOMACY. WE COULD NOT OBSERVE MECHANICS OF BITSIOS' HANDLING OF KYPRIANOU AND COMPANY. IN ANY EVENT, HE DID NOT ALLOW THEM TO SUCCEED IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BREAK UP NON-ALIGNED LEADERSHIP EFFORT TO EVOLVE RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH TURKS AND GREEKS.

4. BOTH SIDES REFERRED TO BITSIOS-GUNES TALKS IN MATTER OF FACT WAY WITH INDICATION THEY HAD BEEN SATISFACTORY. OUR ASSUMPTION IS THAT BITSIOS AND GUNES, EXPERIENCED DIPLOMATS AND POLITICANS WHO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, WERE CAREFUL TO AVOID ISSUES ON WHICH THEY COULD NOT AGREE. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THEY HAD COLLABORATED TO ACHIEVE REASONABLE OUTCOME ON RES. WE INFER THAT FONMINS ARE QUITE WILLING TO SEE CLERIDES-DENKTASH TALKS PROCEED BUT THAT NEITHER SIDE ACQUIRED ANY NEW ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE OTHER AS A RESULT OF THE NEW YORK EXPERIENCE.
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